




# TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission

FROM: Ed Carter, Executive Director  
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency 

SUBJECT: TFWC Committee Meetings  
Thursday, July 12, 2018 @ 1 p.m.

TFWC Commission Meeting  
Friday – July 13, 2018 @ 9 a.m.

The Westin - Chattanooga

DATE: June 29, 2018

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The upcoming TFWC meetings are scheduled to meet on Thursday, July 12 beginning at 1 p.m. and Friday, July 13 at 9 a.m. at The Westin, 801 Pine Street, Chattanooga 37402.

Thursday, July 12, Commissioner Tony Sanders has scheduled a tour of the Conservation Institute at 9 a.m. Transportation will leave the hotel at 8:45 a.m. Next, we'll go to the Fresh Water part of the Aquarium and have a guided tour concentrating on the areas of TWRA partners. Lunch will be provided at the Westin prior to the 1 o'clock meeting. That evening, dinner reservations have been made for 6:30 p.m. at the Bluewater Grille.

Because Chattanooga is so rich in history, Ken Tarkington, our resident military historian, will begin the meeting with a glance back in time.

The minutes from the May 18, 2018 commission meeting held in Nashville at the Region II - Ray Bell Building are included. The financial report is not available at this time and will be sent later prior to the July commission meeting. We're providing the following link for you to review July's memo and agendas. <https://www.tn.gov/twra/twra-commission.html>

Asian Carp "Presser" – After the commission meeting, a short update on Asian carp will be given to representatives from several local media outlets.

Just a reminder: Our 2018 TFWC September meeting will be held in Knoxville at the Holiday Inn at Cedar Bluff. For any commission members choosing to extend their reservation to the weekend in order to attend the home football game at the University of Tennessee, vs. Florida, the hotel requires a 2-night minimum stay for both Friday and Saturday to receive a \$229 rate over these high demand dates. Room rate of \$98 September 19 & 20 and \$229 Friday/Saturday September, 21 & 22. Please contact Michelle Arline as soon as possible, if you're interested in

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extending your stay at 865-693-1011. If Ms. Arline is not available, just tell them that you are coming for the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission. The reservation due date for everyone is August 29, 2018.

The following are brief explanations of agenda items:

### **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan – Greg Wathen, Director's Office**

TWRA Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Response Plan – the Agency is developing a CWD Response Plan, which will address the Agency's operational goals of: 1) preventing the introduction of CWD into Tennessee; 2) designing a risk assessment and surveillance system that will maximize early detection of the disease; 3) minimizing its impacts on our state's white-tailed deer and elk populations in the event that positive CWD cervid is detected; and 4) developing a comprehensive communications strategy to address all aspects of outreach on CWD. We expect to have the draft CWD Response Plan completed in time for the fall hunting season. Greg Wathen will brief the Commission on the draft plan and the process for its review and finalization.

#### **Deer Strategic Plan and Elk Raffle Update – James Kelly, Deer Project Leader - Chris Richardson, Assistant Director**

The focus group meetings have concluded for the deer strategic planning document. The Wildlife Division will give an update on the progress of the plan. Also, Chris Richardson will provide a status report for the ongoing elk raffle.

### **BOATING/LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **Boating Safety Update – Col. Darren Rider, Boating/Law Enforcement Chief**

The Boating and Law Enforcement Division will update the Commission regarding boating safety statistics for the year, including the recent Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **River Conflicts Committee – Chris Richardson, Assistant Director**

During the last legislative session, a law was passed that will allow the TWRA to address the escalating user conflicts on some of our smaller, but heavily utilized rivers. Chris Richardson will outline how the Agency plans to address these conflicts and how the Agency will collaborate with the different entities to find a solution.

### **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

#### **Budget Expansion FY19 – Jamie Feddersen, Migratory Game Bird Program Leader**

\$500,000 (7890 Wetland Coordination) – for a cooperative WMA Wetland Enhancement project with Ducks Unlimited to install wells at Eagle Lake Refuge and John Tully WMA. DU funds will be used for PR match, No state dollars.

#### **Budget Expansion FY19 – Jamie Feddersen, Migratory Game Bird Program Leader**

\$50,000 (7890 Wetland Coordination) – for a cooperative Prairie Habitat Project with Delta Waterfowl in Manitoba, Canada. All state dollars, which will be matched by Delta Waterfowl, North American Wetlands Conservation Act funds, and other partners.

#### **Budget Expansion FY18 – Dave McKinney, Chief of Environmental Services**

\$460,000 requesting approval to expand Budget 3708 to accept Wetlands dollars to close out 15 old gas and oil wells on TWRA properties in Scott and Morgan counties, including well closures on both the McCart Tract and Gunsight Mountain. These well closures must comply with EPA/TDEC standards.

**Financial Report - Ken Tarkington, Chief of Procurement and MVM**

The standard financial report will be presented.

**FISHERIES COMMITTEE**

**Black Crappie Record Fish – Frank Fiss, Chief of Fisheries**

State Record Black Crappie: The new state record Black Crappie was caught by Lionel Ferguson on May 15, 2018. Mr. Ferguson's fish was 5lb, 7.7 oz., which was over a pound heavier than the existing state record and almost a half-pound heavier than the world record. He is currently applying to the International Game Fish Association for recognition as a world record.

**Reservoir Habitat Update – Jason Henegar, Assistant Chief of Fisheries**

This presentation will be an overview of TWRAs ongoing habitat projects on reservoirs throughout the state.

**There is no action scheduled for committees not listed.**

Please feel free to call if you need additional information. We look forward to seeing you on July 12 & 13.

EC:dw